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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,807	10/24/2003	Dany Sylvain	7000-265	2655
27820 7590 12/02/2008 WITHROW & TERRANOVA, P.L.L.C. 100 REGENCY FOREST DRIVE SUITE 160 CARY, NC 27518				
EXAMINER				
SALL, EL HADJI MALICK				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,807

Applicant(s)

SYLVAIN, DANY

Examiner

EL HADJ M. SALL

Art Unit

2457

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Appeal Brief filed on August 25, 2008. Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-36 represent rehomining via tunnel switching. After further review of the appeal and the arguments in reference to the declaration under 35 C.F.R. § 1.131 during a conference Appeal Brief, Examiner agreed with Applicant's argument, therefore have decided to reopen prosecution.

2. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 23 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 23 recites the limitations "the target network address" and "the first target network address" in lines 13 and 14, and claim 30 recites the limitation "the first target network address" in lines 18-19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

3. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-23, 25-30 and 32-36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blewett et al. 7,131,141.

Blewett teaches the invention as claimed including method and apparatus for securely connecting plurality of trust-group networks, a protected resource network and an untrusted network (see abstract).

As to claims 1 and 12, Blewett teaches a method and a tunnel access server for facilitating communications between a user element and a protected network resource comprising:

a) establishing a first tunneling session with the user element via a first access network (figure 1A, "WORKNET");

b) assigning to the user element a first target network protected address for addressing packets intended for the protected network resource and traveling in part over the first tunneling session (figure 3A, item 352);

c) establishing a second tunneling session with the user element via a second access network (figure 1A, "HOMENET"); and

d) reassigning to the user element the first target network protected address for addressing packets intended for the protected network resource and traveling in part over the second tunneling session (figure 7A, item 752).

As to claims 23 and 30, Blewett teaches a method and a user element for facilitating communications between a user element and a protected network resource comprising:

a) establishing a first tunneling session with a tunnel access server via a first access network (figure 1A, "WORKNET");;

b) sending packets intended for the protected network resource over the first tunneling session using a first target network protected address (column 16, lines 12-14);

c) establishing a second tunneling session with the tunnel access server via a second access network (figure 1A, "HOMENET");

d) receiving from the tunnel access server a target network protected address for sending packets intended for the protected network resource (column 15, lines 46-56);

e) determining if the target network address is the same as the first target network address (column 16, lines 55-57, Blewett discloses discovering the address of the target machine in the domain of the second protected resource network. Examiner construes that the "target network address" is the same as "the first network address"); and

f) if the target network address is the same as the first target network address, sending the packets intended for the protected network resource over the second tunneling session using the first target network protected address (column 16, lines 12-14).

As to claims 2 and 13, Blewett teaches the method and the tunnel access server of claims 1 and 12 wherein the first and second tunneling sessions are encrypted tunneling sessions (column 8, lines 11-15).

As to claims 3 and 14, Blewett teaches the method and the tunnel access server of claims 1 and 12 further comprising authenticating the first and second tunneling sessions with common authentication indicia (column 5, lines 3-6).

As to claims 4, 5, 15 and 16, Blewett teaches the method and the tunnel access server of claims 1, 4, 12 and 15, respectively, wherein the first target network protected address is reassigned to the user element only when the second tunneling session is established within a predetermined period of time from termination or last use of the first

tunneling session, and further comprising assigning to the user element a second target network protected address for addressing packets intended for the protected network resource and traveling in part over the second tunneling session when the second tunneling session is not established with the predetermined period of time (column 3, lines 39-63).

As to claims 6 and 17, Blewett teaches the method and the tunnel access server of claims 1 and 12 further comprising terminating the first tunneling session and reserving the first target protected network address for the user element for a predetermined period of time for use in association with the second tunneling session (column 16, lines 11-14).

As to claims 7, 18, 25, 26, 32 and 33, Blewett teaches the method, the tunnel access server and the user element of claims 1, 12, 23, 23, 30 and 30, respectively, further comprising:

- a) receiving a request from the user element for a second tunneling session (column 2, lines 39-43);
- b) terminating the first tunneling session (column 3, lines 58-60).; and
- c) enabling the second tunneling session (column 8, lines 1-2).

As to claims 8 and 19, Blewett teaches the method and the tunnel access server of claims 1 and 12 further comprising receiving the packets from the user element and

forwarding the packets to the protected network resource using the first target network protected address ((column 15, lines 46-56).

As to claims 9, 20, 27 and 34, Blewett teaches the method, the tunnel access server and the user element of claims 1, 12, 26 and 30, respectively, further comprising:

a) receiving authentication indicia from the user element; and b) authenticating use of the second tunneling session by the user element based on the authentication indicia (column 5, lines 3-6).

As to claims 10, 21, 28 and 35, Blewett teaches the method and the tunnel access server of claims 1, 12, 23 and 30 wherein the first and second access networks facilitate communications with the user element using different communication technologies (column 3, lines 34-39).

As to claims 11, 22, 29 and 36, Blewett teaches the method, the tunnel access server and the user element of claims 10, 21, 28 and 35 wherein at least one of the different communication technologies is a wireless communication technology. One would be motivated to do so to allow the devices to be mobile (column 3, line 36).

5. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 24 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blewett et al. 7,131,141 in view of Bahl et al., 7,020,464.

Blewett teaches the invention substantially as claimed including method and apparatus for securely connecting plurality of trust-group networks, a protected resource network and an untrusted network (see abstract).

As to claims 24 and 31, Blewett teaches the method and the user element of claims 23 and 30 wherein if the target network address is different than the first target network protected address, further comprising:

b) sending the packets intended for the protected network resource over the second tunneling session using the target network protected address (column 1, lines 59-63).

Blewett fails to teach explicitly a) restarting applications communicating with the protected network resource.

However, Bahl teaches a) restarting applications communicating with the protected network resource (column 1, lines 44-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Blewett in view of Bahl to provide a) restarting applications communicating with the protected network resource. One would be motivated to do so to allow saving the new changes.

7. Conclusion

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to El Hadji M Sall whose telephone number is 571-272-4010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/El Hadji M Sall/

Examiner, Art Unit 2457

/ARIO ETIENNE/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457